

SCRUTINY COMMISSION - 9 MAY 2013

REPORT OF PUBLIC SPACE MANAGER **RE: PARISH AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FUND ALLOCATION OF** **GRANTS FOR 2013/2014**

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL PARISH WARDS



1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To request Scrutiny approve the allocation of grants through the Parish and Community Initiative Fund 2013/14.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That Scrutiny Commission supports the funding allocations of £84,382, as detailed in section 4, from the Parish and Community Initiative Fund 2013.
- 2.2 That Scrutiny Commission supports the allocation of additional funding (£20,000) to super fast broadband as detailed in 4.5 and 5.2 in this report.

3. **BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

- 3.1 Since 2005 the Parish Community Initiative Fund has distributed over £665,000 towards 146 schemes to local parishes or voluntary organisations.
- 3.2 In 2012/13 the scheme received 32 applications from across the Borough and a total of £93,302 was awarded to 28 schemes

4. **APPLICATIONS FOR 2013/14**

- 4.1 The table in Appendix 1 of this report provides an objective scoring summary of the assessments made of all the applications by the Public Space Team.
- 4.2 The assessment panel then determined grants to be allocated. This panel consisted of Caroline Roffey – Public Space Manager, Edwina Grant – Strategic and Community Planning Officer, Paul Scragg – Senior Public Space Officer, Jackie Lee - Public Space officer and Chris Pocock - Public Space Officer.
- 4.3 The maximum amount of funding available to each Parish is £10,000. The grant will fund a maximum of 50% of the project costs. Each applicant must seek support from their Parish Council and Borough Councillor. Only capital items are funded, the lowest submitted quote has been used to calculate the maximum eligible grant.

26 applications have been received requesting a total of £111,840.

- 4.4 Based on the information in Appendix 1 the assessment panel recommends funding the following schemes totalling £84,382: (Applications are set out in alphabetical order by parish and parish name is given in brackets)

1. Church Handrail Installation - St Peter's Church Thornton (Bagworth and Thornton).
Outline: Installation of a supportive handrail along tarmac path to church entrance to improve access for users.
Recommended grant: £500
2. Meeting Point Community Space – Elohim Church (Barlestone).

Outline: Rebuilding of dilapidated outbuildings to provide an additional community building for people of all ages.
Recommended grant: £3,910

3. Exercise for All – Barlestone Parish Council (Barlestone).
Outline: Installation of outdoor fitness equipment at Bosworth Road Park Barlestone.
Recommended grant: £6,090
4. Low maintenance landscaping scheme – George Ward Centre (Barwell).
Outline: Landscaping of part of the grounds of the George Ward Centre to create a more maintenance friendly area.
Recommended grant: £1,224
5. Pathway Improvements at Kirkby Road – Barwell Parish Council (Barwell).
Outline: Renewal of the cemetery pathways at Kirkby Road Cemetery.
Recommended grant: £1,036
6. New tarmac footpath – Burbage Parish Council (Burbage).
Outline: The installation of a new tarmac footpath at Hinckley Road Recreation ground to create a circular path around the whole site to improve access.
Recommended grant: £9,250
7. Development Plan for repairs at All Saint's Church – Cadeby Parish Council (Cadeby).
Outline: Production of a Development Plan which will enable phase 2 works to carry out large scale works to the church.
Recommended grant: £5,767
8. Resiting of Tennis Court Gate – Desford Lawn Tennis Club (Desford).
Outline: Put in a new gate and entrance to the tennis courts to allow safer and easier access for all.
Recommended grant: £450
9. Mural on Community Garden Wall - Desford Free Church (Desford).
Outline: The designing and painting of a mural with a youth group on the garden wall.
Recommended grant: £300
10. Access improvements at Sports Club Car Park – Sport in Desford (Desford).
Outline: Refurbishment of the sports clubs car park and entrance to improve access.
Recommended grant: £5,000
11. New Camping Equipment for Scout Group – Desford Scout Group (Desford).
Outline: New tents, a trailer, camping chairs and tables and cooking equipment for scouting expeditions.
Recommended grant: £3,820
12. Mill Lane Cemetery Pergola, Benches and Planters – Earl Shilton Town Council (Earl Shilton).
Outline: The installation of new planters at Mill Lane Cemetery, together with new seating and a pergola.
Recommended grant: £1669
13. Scout Hut Improvements – Groby 73rd Scout Group (Groby).
Outline: The improvement and renovation of the toilets to allow use by girls and to create a disabled toilet.

Recommended grant: £5000

14. The Garden of Remembrance – Groby Parish Council (Groby).
Outline: The creation of a new garden of remembrance at Groby Village Cemetery.
Recommended grant: £5000
15. Parish Hall Annex Development – Market Bosworth Hall Management Committee (Market Bosworth).
Outline: Development of a new annex at Market Bosworth Parish Hall to include new office space, meeting rooms and toilet facilities.
Recommended grant: £7,000
16. Football and Cricket Drainage works – Market Bosworth Sports and Social Club. (Market Bosworth).
Outline: The installation of drainage at the club ground to improve pitch quality.
Recommended grant: £3,000
17. New Skate Park – Markfield Parish Council (Markfield)
Outline: The installation of a new state of the art concrete skate park at Mayflower Close recreation ground.
Recommended grant: £10,000
18. Replacement of Leaded Windows – Nailstone Parochial Church Council (Nailstone)
Outline: The replacement of leaded windows and associated metal work to improve the church for use as a community building.
Recommended grant £630
19. Renewal of Parish Notice Boards – Newbold Verdon Parish Council (Newbold Verdon)
Outline: The replacement of 6 parish notice boards within Newbold Verdon.
Recommended grant: £830
20. Hard surfacing for Basketball area – Peckleton Parish Council (Peckleton)
Outline: New hard surface area around basketball hoop at Kirkby Mallory recreation ground to allow all year round use.
Recommended grant: £2,493
21. Entrance Improvements at Ferndale Community Park – Ratby Parish Council (Ratby)
Outline: Improvements to the entrance of Ferndale Park to help with access and antisocial behaviour issues.
Recommended grant: £1,743
22. Replacement of Carpet in Main Hall – Without Walls Christian Fellowship (Stanton under Bardon)
Outline: The replacement of a dilapidated carpet in the main hall following works to replace the rotten flooring.
Recommended grant: £1,275
23. Outdoor Gym and Fitness Trail – Stoke Golding Parish Council (Stoke Golding)
Outline: Phase 2 works at Stoke Golding recreation ground to provide an outdoor fitness and gym trail.
Recommended grant: £4,995
24. New Kitchen at Twycross Village Hall – Twycross Village Hall (Twycross)

Outline: Remove the old kitchen and replace all units, tiles and floor at the village hall.

Recommended grant: £2,900

25. Insulation works at Village Hall – Norton Juxta Twycross Village Hall institute (Twycross)

Outline: Loft insulation and draft proofing at the village hall.

Recommended grant: £500

The Assessment panel recommends **rejecting** the following application:

1. Gravel Path upgrade at Park Street Memorial Gardens – Market Bosworth Parish Council (Market Bosworth)

Outline: Resurfacing of gravel paths at Memorial Gardens.

Rationale: 3 applications were received from Market Bosworth requesting a total of £17,395. The criteria for this grant specify only £10,000 per parish and the panel felt the two other applications offered better overall community benefit and scored more highly on overall grant criteria.

- 4.5 Members will be aware that the Council has committed £40,000 towards the provision of superfast broadband across the county. The Executive is wishing to increase that funding allocation and has suggested that any money legitimately not utilized from this year could be allocated to this provision. As a result, therefore, the Executive could consider utilizing the £15,000 of funding unallocated this year, along with £5,000 from next years PCIF allocation, to commit an additional £20,000 (a total of £60,000) towards improvements in super fast rural broadband provision.

5. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (TO)**

- 5.1 The total Capital budget for 2013/14 is £100,000. The total grants recommended for approval is £84,382.

There are 3 grants totaling £7,762, which were approved for 2012/13 where projects have been delayed. These will be completed in 2013/14. A further grant of £12,000 awarded to Bagworth and Thornton Parish Council in 2011/12 has also been delayed and a further 6 months from 1st April 2013 has been granted for the completion of this project. A request to carry forward this budget under spend into the year 2013/14 will be submitted as part of the year end process. These are: George Ward Centre Play area safety surfacing £1,212, Bagworth and Thornton Old Colliery Sport Ground £2550, Higham-on-the-Hill St Peter's Church Toilets £4,000 and Bagworth and Thornton Community Centre Renovation £12,000.

- 5.2 To allow for the carry forward of the 4 projects the capital budget will be increased by £19,762. Additionally, the 2013/14 budget will be reduced by £15,618 to reflect the approved allocations in the year. However, if Executive approve the £15,000 allocation towards the superfast broadband provision the reduction will be £618. For 2013/14 this will result in a revised programme budget of £119,144. If approved, these budget revisions will form part of the year end accounting process.

6. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (AB)**

- 6.1 None raised directly by this report

7. **CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The Parish & Community Initiative fund supports parishes and community groups to achieve the aims and objectives of the Corporate Performance Plan to:

- Cleaner and greener neighbourhoods

- Safer and healthier borough
- Strong and distinctive communities

8. **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

No significant risks identified

9. **KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

All grants are awarded to the rural areas, and parish council support is sought for each application.

10. **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications
- Human Resources implications
- Planning Implications - some schemes will require planning consent
- Voluntary Sector

Background papers: Appendix 1 attached

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